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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DORA SOLARES, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

RALPH DIAZ, in his individual capacity,
KENNETH CLARK, in his individual
capacity, JOSEPH BURNS, in his
individual, and DOES 1 TO 15, in their
individual capacities

Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-00323-LHR-BAM

**FOURTH AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR
VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER 18 U.S.C. § 1983**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

INTRODUCTION

1. On or about March 7, 2019, CDCR inmate Luis Romero was transferred from Mule Creek State Prison to California State Prison, Corcoran. Corcoran prison officials chose to bypass the standardized administrative committee process that is required before compelling one inmate to share the cell of another, and rushed to assign Mr. Romero to the same cell as convicted murderer, inmate Jaime Osuna. Mr. Osuna had not had a cellmate at Corcoran prior to this assignment. Corcoran officials

1 had already been put on notice that Mr. Osuna was uniquely unfit to be housed with a
2 cellmate, as he had engaged in multiple acts of violence against fellow inmates, had
3 been charged with attempted murder as a result of one such incident, had exhibited
4 violence towards prison staff, and had been recommended for placement in a
5 psychiatric ward rather than a prison. On March 8, 2019, despite having received these
6 warnings about Mr. Osuna, and despite taking the unusual step of expediting Mr.
7 Romero's placement, Corcoran prison officials chose to bypass the standardized
8 process and then failed to conduct regularly scheduled nightly safety checks of Mr.
9 Romero's new cell. Even after a bedsheet was visibly draped along the bars inside this
10 cell, preventing anyone outside from peering in, no Corcoran prison official bothered
11 to conduct a routine safety check during the evening of March 8, 2019. In the early
12 morning hours of March 9, 2019, Corcoran officials finally looked on the other side of
13 the bedsheet. At that point, Mr. Romero was found decapitated, and Mr. Osuna was
14 found wearing a necklace made of Mr. Romero's body parts.

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 2. This case arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and
17 Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, and various state-law
18 governmental tort statutes. Jurisdiction in this Honorable Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331
19 and 1343. Plaintiff's state-law claims are within the Court's supplemental jurisdiction
20 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

21 3. Venue is proper in Eastern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
22 1391, as the underlying acts, omissions, injuries and related facts occurred in Kings
23 County, California. This is an action for damages and such other and further relief as
24 may be consistent with law pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, to redress violations of the
25 decedent's rights protected by the United States Constitution, by persons acting under
26 color of law. This is also a survivor's action and one for wrongful death brought
27 pursuant to the Constitution, statutes and/or common law of the State of California.
28

1 **PARTIES**

2 4. Plaintiff Dora Solares (hereinafter, also referred to as “Plaintiff”) is the
3 mother of Luis Romero, deceased (“the decedent”). The decedent was never married,
4 never had any domestic partner, nor children. Ms. Solares has standing to bring a cause
5 of action for wrongful death and a section 1983 survivor action.

6 5. When Luis Romero was three years old, and still living in Guatemala,
7 Dora Solares divorced Luis Romero’s father. Since that time, Dora Solares (and Luis
8 Romero) have had no contact with the father. Furthermore, Dora Solares and Luis
9 Romero emigrated to the United States shortly thereafter, and Luis Romero’s father
10 remained in Guatemala, and to Plaintiff’s knowledge the father never moved to the
11 United States and has never entered the United States. For these reasons it is not
12 feasible to join him. Luis Romero’s father never filed a timely tort claim form (Cal.
13 Gov’t. Code § 910). Furthermore, in the almost-two-years since this action has been
14 filed Luis Romero’s father has made no effort to be a part of this lawsuit, has made no
15 effort to contact Ms. Solares or her counsel, and has made no effort to have any
16 contact with the United States as a forum. Indeed, Ms. Solares has had no contact with
17 Luis Romero’s father since 1977 and she is not aware of anyone who knows his
18 whereabouts. Moreover, Ms. Solares does not know the exact birthday of Luis
19 Romero’s father, and he left shortly after Luis Romero was born and never saw the
20 family again. Luis Romero’s father is not subject to process as his location within
21 Guatemala is unknown, his birthday is unknown, and any family relations are unknown.
22 With that said, the Court has ordered that Mr. Romero’s father, Victor Manuel
23 Romero, be joined as a party for purposes of the wrongful death claim. *See* Dkt. No.
24 56, fn. 3. As a result, Victor Manuel Romero Gonzalez is added as the second plaintiff
25 in this case, and has standing to bring a wrongful death claim. “Plaintiffs” refers to
26 both Victor Manuel Romero Gonzalez and Dora Solares.

27 6. Dora Solares is a plaintiff in both her individual capacity and as a
28 successor-in-interest, entitled to seek relief as a result of the unlawful and wrongful

1 death of Luis Romero. Victor Manuel Romero Gonzalez is a plaintiff in his capacity as
2 a successor-in-interest. This action is filed pursuant to CCP §§ 337.60, 377.30, et al and
3 a declaration has been filed under CCP 377.32. Decedent has no other remaining family
4 members or heirs who have standing to bring a cause of action for wrongful death
5 other than Plaintiffs.

6 7. Defendant Joseph Burnes (“Burnes”)¹ is a CDCR Sergeant who was
7 working at the California State Prison, Corcoran at the time of the incident. He is sued
8 in his individual capacity. Defendant licensed social worker K. Kyle (“Kyle”) is a
9 licensed social worker working at the California State Prison, Corcoran at the time of
10 the incident, and in January 2019, when the decision to allow Osuna to share a cell was
11 made. Defendant K. Kyle is sued in the individual capacity. Defendant M. Gamboa
12 (“Gamboa”) is a CDCR Lieutenant working at the California State Prison, Corcoran at
13 the time of the incident, and in January 2019, when the decision to allow Osuna to
14 share a cell was made. Defendant M. Gamboa is sued in the individual capacity.
15 Defendant Leonel Pena (“Pena”) is a Correctional Officer who was working at the
16 California State Prison, Corcoran, at the time of the incident. He is sued in his
17 individual capacity. Defendant Luis Silva (“Silva”) is a Correctional Officer who was
18 working at the California State Prison, Corcoran, at the time of the incident. He is sued
19 in his individual capacity. Defendant Bryan Gallemore (“Gallemore”) is a Correctional
20 Officer who was working at the California State Prison, Corcoran, at the time of the
21 incident. He is sued in his individual capacity. Defendant Jesse Garcia (“Garcia”) is a
22 Correctional Officer who was working at the California State Prison, Corcoran, at the
23 time of the incident. He is sued in his individual capacity. Defendant A. Loza (“Loza”)
24 is a Correctional Officer who was working at the California State Prison, Corcoran, at
25 the time of the incident. He is sued in his individual capacity. Defendant F. Muñoz

27 ¹ Plaintiff’s counsel conducted investigation to obtain additional facts, and in that
28 process, the spelling of defendant Burnes was confirmed to not have an “e.” Plaintiff
accordingly corrects the spelling.

1 (“Muñoz”) is a CDCR Lieutenant working at the California State Prison, Corcoran at
2 the time of the incident. Defendant M. Gamboa is sued in the individual capacity.
3 These named individuals (Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa, Pena, Silva, Gallemore, Garcia, Loza
4 and Muñoz) are referred to collectively as “All Defendants” or simply “Defendants.”

5 8. At all relevant times, Defendant Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa, Pena, Silva,
6 Gallemore, Garcia, Loza, Muñoz and Does 11-15 each of them, possessed the power
7 and authority to adopt policies and prescribe rules, regulations, and practices affecting
8 all facets of the training, supervision, control, employment, assignment and removal of
9 individual employees of the CDCR, including those individuals charged with protecting
10 the health and safety of inmates at the California State Prison, Corcoran, including
11 decedent Luis Romero, and to assure that said actions, policies, rules, regulations,
12 customs, practices and procedures of the CDCR and its employees and agents
13 complied with the laws and constitutions of the United States and the State of
14 California.

15 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that at all times
16 mentioned herein Defendants Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa, Pena, Silva, Gallemore, Garcia,
17 Loza, Muñoz and Does 1 through 15, inclusive, worked in Kings County, State of
18 California. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that at all times
19 mentioned herein Defendants Burnes and Does 1 through 15, inclusive, were
20 employees, agents and/or servants of the CDCR, employed at the California State
21 Prison, Corcoran, and acted within the course and scope of said employment, agency
22 and/or service, and acted under color of state law.

23 10. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities of defendants sued
24 herein as Does 1 through 15, inclusive, and therefore sues these defendants by such
25 fictitious names, in their individual capacities. Plaintiff is informed, believes and alleges
26 that each of the fictitiously named defendants is legally responsible, intentionally,
27 negligently, or in some other actionable manner, for the events and happenings
28 hereinafter referred to and described, and thereby illegally caused the injuries, damages,

1 and violations and/or deprivations of rights hereinafter alleged. Plaintiff will seek leave
2 of Court to amend this Complaint and state the true names and/or capacities of said
3 fictitiously named defendants when the same have been ascertained.

4 11. The reason why Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities of
5 Defendants sued herein as Does, inclusive, is that same have been unascertainable as of
6 the date of filing of this complaint, as many of these Does may be CDCR officers,
7 sergeants, lieutenants, captains, associate wardens, chief deputy wardens and/or civilian
8 employee agents, policy makers and representatives of the CDCR, or employees, agents
9 and representatives of the CDCR, and as such many of their records are protected by
10 state statute and can only reasonably be ascertained through the discovery process.

11 12. The individual defendants were at all times mentioned herein duly
12 appointed, qualified and acting officers of the CDCR, acting within the course and
13 scope of such employment with the CDCR, and acted under color of the statutes,
14 ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the State of California.

15 **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

16 13. Pursuant to Government Code § 910, Plaintiff Dora Solares presented a
17 timely appropriate claim for damages and a \$25 check for the required tort claim fee,
18 on or around September 3, 2019, less than six months after the incident. On September
19 12, 2019, the State of California cashed the \$25 check, representing the government
20 tort claim fee. This action is timely. Plaintiff Victor Manuel Romero Gonzalez did not
21 present a government tort claim but has been ordered to be joined as a party. *See* Dkt.
22 No. 56.

23 **FACTS**

24 **A. The Decision to Place Luis Romero in Jaime Osuna's Cell**

25 14. On or about March 7, 2019, CDCR inmate Luis Romero (Inmate #
26 H56733) was transferred from Mule Creek State Prison to California State Prison,
27 Corcoran (hereinafter, "Corcoran"). Corcoran prison officials, including defendant
28 CDCR Sergeant Joseph Burnes, and Does, were required to go through a standardized

1 administrative committee process of matching two inmates in one cell, a process that is
2 described in Paragraph 15. Defendant Burnes and Does chose to not follow this
3 standardized administrative committee process, and rushed to place Mr. Romero with
4 convicted murderer and single-celled inmate Jaime Osuna, despite knowing that Osuna
5 was a danger to anyone around him, as described in Paragraphs 16 and 17.

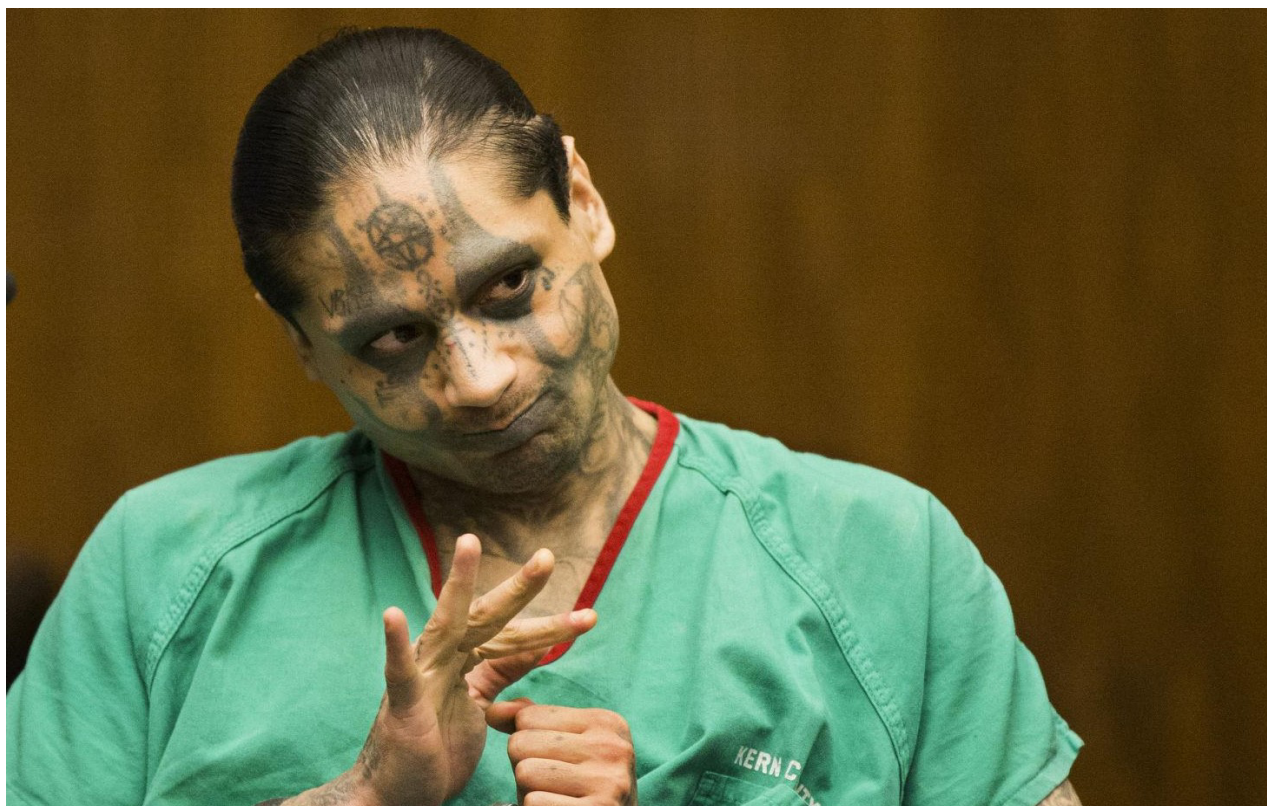
6 15. Normally, a committee of prison administrators must determine whether
7 an inmate is fit to have a cellmate. After making this determination, the committee
8 must find another inmate, and deem that inmate an appropriate fit as a cellmate. At
9 that point, the committee ensures the two inmates are introduced to each other, and
10 each inmate must then sign forms acknowledging and agreeing to be celled with one
11 another. Based on information and belief, CDCR never followed the standardized
12 administrative committee process with regards to housing Romero and Osuna together.

13 16. Defendants, including Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa, Loza and Muñoz and
14 Does, were on notice that Jaime Osuna posed a threat to other inmates and should not
15 share a cell with anyone. Jail and prison reports from Osuna's years behind bars
16 document his violent misconduct and establish that he was always single-celled. It is
17 believed that since his CDCR commitment in 2012, Osuna has never had a cellmate.
18 Plaintiff is also informed that CDCR was in possession of documents from Jaime
19 Osuna's own lawyers and medical team, warning CDCR of Osuna's propensity for
20 extreme violence, insatiable desire to kill, and need to be held in a psychiatric ward, not
21 in a prison with other inmates. Furthermore, defendants were on notice of Osuna's
22 violent behavior while incarcerated at the Kern County Jail awaiting trial in his original
23 murder case, including one incident that resulted in Osuna being charged with
24 attempted murder. Defendants were on notice that Osuna was serving a no-parole
25 sentence for torture killing of a Bakersfield woman in 2011. Defendants knew that
26 Osuna posed a danger to anyone he shared a cell, which is why he had never had a cell-
27 mate at Corcoran before.

28 17. According to CDCR records, in 2012, a guard caught Jaime Osuna with a

1 five-inch metal shank. That same report describes Osuna has a high-risk inmate to be
2 housed in a secured single cell with no inmate contact. Shortly after the 2012 incident,
3 another guard found Jaime Osuna with a hatchet like weapon in his single cell and a
4 few months after that, despite being single celled, Jamie Osuna found his way into
5 another inmate's cell where Osuna stabbed and slashed the face of the inmate, resulting
6 in 67 stitches. When prison officials requested to photograph the inmate's injuries, he
7 declined, noting that he didn't want to risk Osuna getting copies of the photos and
8 adding them to his collection of "trophies." Prison reports from 2016 also list Osuna as
9 high-risk staff assaultive, had engaged in an in-cell assault, and was an administrative
10 segregated inmate. In 2017, Osuna was found to have engaged in multiple instances of
11 battery on a peace officer, and that year was placed in the Administrative Segregation
12 Unit for battery on an inmate with a weapon. In 2019, Osuna ripped into pieces his
13 state-issued bed sheets, blankets and mattress. To licensed clinical social worker K.
14 Kyle, Osuna had expressed his frequent homicidal ideation and Kyle knew that Osuna
15 was a homicidal sociopath who should not be housed with anyone since Osuna himself
16 had expressed to Kyle his desire to kill again in the future. Thus, Osuna posed an
17 objectively homicidal risk to anyone around him, including anyone with whom he
18 shared a cell, and Defendants, including Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa and Does constituted
19 the committee assigned with reviewing the single-cell review process and were on
20 notice of the ongoing threat posed by Osuna but still approved Osuna to go from
21 being single-celled to being permitted to share a cell ("double-cell") in January 2019. As
22 a result, Osuna went from being strictly single-celled to being permitted to share a cell

1 if so assigned.¹⁸ Defendants were on notice that Jaime Osuna had mental health
2 issues and was prone to violence:



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16 19. Despite being put on notice that Osuna would kill again if placed in close
17 proximity to another inmate, and despite glaring evidence that Osuna was an inmate
18 who should not be housed with any other inmate, Defendant Burnes not only took part
19 in the January 2019 decision to permit Osuna to share a cell, but then assigned Romero
20 to share a cell with Osuna in March 2019. As the sergeant in the administrative
21 segregated unit Osuna was assigned, Defendant Burnes was responsible for supervising
22 the unit and assigning newly arriving inmates to share cells. On or around March 7,
23 2019, when Romero arrived at Corcoran, Defendant Burnes had available options for
24 housing Romero other than assigning him to share a cell with Osuna: there were
25 literally other empty cells in the same unit, and other inmates who were permitted to
26 share a cell but were currently single-celled. Despite these other housing options on
27 October 7, 20219, Defendant Burnes and Does chose to ignore the known risk of
28 Osuna and took the highly unusual decision to assign Luis Romero to share a cell with

1 Jaime Osuna within 48 hours of Romero arriving at Corcoran jail. Defendants Loza and
2 Muñoz also knew the threat posed by Osuna to others yet took part in the
3 administrative process of double-celling Romero with Osuna, not telling Romero about
4 the threat posed by Osuna, and bypassing obvious alternatives to house Romero in
5 empty cells in the same unit rather than with Osuna. At this time around March 7,
6 2019, Romero did not have the information that Burnes and other defendants did
7 about the threat posed by Osuna, and as an inmate did not have the luxury of choosing
8 his cellmate. The risk that Osuna posed to others was known to Burnes since he knew
9 of Osuna's violent history, as CDCR records made this clear and Burnes had been put
10 on notice that Osuna posed a threat to other inmates with whom he came in contact
11 since Corcoran officials had established for years that Osuna not be celled with any
12 other inmate. Plaintiff alleges, based upon information and belief, that Luis Romero
13 had filed personnel complaints against Burnes and other Corcoran guards, including
14 Does, and Burnes' and Does' decision to not follow the administrative committee
15 process was animated in part to retaliate against Mr. Romero. Defendant Burnes could
16 not have acted alone, as the decision to bypass the normal committee process could not
17 have been made by one person alone, and defendant Does, along with Burnes, chose to
18 ignore the known risk posed by Osuna and chose to not follow the administrative
19 committee process. Burnes was on notice of the particular violent nature of Jaime
20 Osuna but took no steps to ensure that Osuna remained single-celled. Defendant
21 Burnes made the decision to assign Romero to Osuna's cell and then failed to properly
22 supervise Doe defendants to ensure that the standardized administrative committee
23 process was followed in this instance, and instead approved and allowed the out-of-
24 protocol decision to go forward. Defendant Burnes took part in and thus permitted
25 Does to not follow the proper administrative procedure for placing one inmate in the
26 cell of another inmate, despite being put on notice of the threat that Osuna posed to
27 anyone with whom he shared a cell.

1 **B. The Failure to Conduct Safety Checks**

2 20. After placing Luis Romero in harm's way by forcing him to share a cell
3 with Osuna, defendants Burnes, Silva, Gallemore, Pena, Garcia, and Does then failed
4 to conduct routine safety check-ups, routine counting of inmates that require a visual
5 inspection of inmates in each cell, and routine visual and auditory monitoring of the
6 cell, even when a bedsheet was impermissibly draped inside the cell. Normally, a
7 corrections officer is supposed to conduct nightly safety checks of each cell at least
8 every hour. And normally, inmates are prohibited from obstructing the view into their
9 cell, and the draping of bedsheets or other materials in such a manner is not permitted.

10 21. On the evening of March 8, 2019, however, defendants Burnes, Silva,
11 Gallemore, Pena, Garcia, and Does did not enforce the normal rules, despite being put
12 on notice of the danger Osuna posed to other inmates in general, and despite being
13 aware of the fact that Osuna had not been permitted to share a cell with anyone before.
14 Doe defendants, correctional officers at Corcoran assigned to the cellblock that
15 Romero and Osuna were housed on the evening of March 8, 2019, did not conduct any
16 night-time safety checks. Defendants Silva, Gallemore, Pena, Garcia and Does did not
17 order Osuna (or Romero) to take the bedsheets down at any point in the night.
18 Defendants Silva, Gallemore, Pena, Garcia and Does failure to conduct required
19 safety-checks and required count measures and required audio/visual monitoring was
20 so prolonged and pronounced that they heard no sounds that would indicate a violent
21 attack was being committed and that they should intervene. The delay of nighttime
22 safety checks was so severe that Osuna had time to decapitate Romero, make a
23 necklace of Romero's body parts, and cover the cell in blood, all with a small razor.
24 The prosecutor assigned to Mr. Romero's murder calls it "probably the most unusual
25 and gruesome case that I've had in my career."² Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15
26 also failed to supervise Defendants Silva, Gallemore, Pena, Garcia and Does
27 responsible for conducting routine night-time safety checks and counts, and thus

28 ² Available at <https://abc30.com/5271416/>

1 Defendants Silva, Gallemore, Pena, Garcia and Does failed to actually conduct routine
2 night-time safety checks and safety measures on night of March 8-March 9, 2019, that
3 Romero was in a cell with Osuna, even though they knew Osuna had not been celled
4 with another inmate while in administrative segregation unit and who they knew posed
5 a threat to other inmates. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15 failed to establish a
6 system that would ensure crucial nighttime safety checks were actually conducted.
7 Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15 also failed to train on these above-issues, and were
8 aware of the deficiencies in the training of the correctional officers tasked with
9 enforcing night-time safety checks and the rule against permitting inmates to hang
10 sheets in their cells to obstruct viewing into such cells. As a result, hours passed
11 without any CDCR official conducting any routine safety check, and in this vacuum,
12 Mr. Romero was brutally murdered.

13 22. Defendants Burnes, Kyle, Gamboa, Silva, Loza, Muñoz, Gallemore, Pena,
14 Garcia and Does were deliberately indifferent to a substantial risk of serious harm to
15 which Luis Romero was exposed. Such indifference to which they were subjectively
16 aware includes: choosing to ignore the proper administrative procedure for placing one
17 inmate with another, despite having been put on notice that Jaime Osuna was a violent
18 psychopath; affirmatively placing Mr. Romero in a cell with Jaime Osuna, even though
19 Mr. Osuna had not shared a cell with anyone before at Corcoran because he had been
20 identified as a violent psychopath who posed a danger to fellow inmates; failing to
21 ensure regular, night-time security checks of the cell that housed Mr. Romero and Mr.
22 Osuna, despite Mr. Osuna having been identified as a violent killer who posed a danger
23 to fellow inmates; and for Burnes and the Doe defendants who were the correctional
24 officers on shift over the night, failing to make regular checks despite a bedsheet
25 draped inside Romero and Osuna's cell that evening, which visibly prevented proper
26 monitoring and would have required the inmates to take it down, under Corcoran's
27 own rules, and failing to monitor the cell holding Osuna and Romero

28 23. A March 13, 2019 the autopsy cited a litany of injuries, which Luis

1 Romero suffered even before his death. According to the medical examiner, Luis
2 Romero's spine was severed in the area of its first two segments. The cut-line was
3 irregular and the surrounding skin showed scattered abrasions, scratches, and clusters
4 of superficial stab wounds averaging a quarter inch in length. Romero's right ear was
5 removed by Jamie Osuna. Romero's eyes were forcibly detached by Osuna, and
6 Romero's left eye had been stabbed. Superficial scratches were seen on the right side of
7 Romero's face. Prominent lacerations extended laterally from Romero's right and left
8 side of his mouth approximately two and a half inches. A square-shaped incision was
9 made to Romero's left upper chest cavity measuring four inches by three inches. The
10 underlying rib segment was removed and Romero's left lung was removed in two parts.
11 Crime scene photos taken prior to Romero being removed from the cell showed
12 Romero's body had been posed in a way that if possible, made the full decapitation
13 even more shocking. Jamie Osuna had made a necklace for himself using Romero's
14 body parts and organs. Osuna was found with the murder weapon believed to have
15 been manufactured from a razor with a string around it.

16 **DAMAGES**

17 24. As a direct and proximate result of aforesaid acts and omissions, and the
18 customs, practices, policies and decisions of the defendants alleged in this complaint,
19 Plaintiff suffered and will continue to suffer great emotional, mental and physical pain
20 and injuries, anguish, fright, nervousness, anxiety, shock, humiliation, indignity,
21 embarrassment, harm to reputation, and apprehension, which have caused and will
22 continue to cause, Plaintiff to sustain general damages in a sum to be determined at
23 trial. Luis Romero suffered greatly before his eventual death at the hands of Osuna, and
24 his estate is entitled to damages stemming from pre-death pain and suffering.

25 25. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts, omissions, customs,
26 practices, policies and decisions of the aforementioned Defendants, Plaintiff suffered
27 the denial of her fundamental constitutional rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth
28 Amendments of the United States Constitution, which have caused Plaintiff to sustain

1 damages in a sum to be determined at trial.

2 26. As a further direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts, omissions,
3 customs, practices, policies and decisions of the aforementioned Defendants, Plaintiff
4 incurred and/or will continue to incur medical expenses, including psychological
5 treatment.

6 27. As a further direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts, omissions,
7 customs, practices, policies and decisions of the aforementioned Defendants, Plaintiff
8 suffered past and future losses of income that have caused her to sustain economic
9 damages in a sum to be determined at trial.

10 28. Defendant Burnes and individual Doe defendants acted in a manner that
11 was willful, wanton, malicious and oppressive, with reckless disregard of or in
12 deliberate indifference to and with the intent to deprive the decedent of his
13 constitutional rights, and did in fact violate the aforementioned rights, entitling Plaintiff
14 to exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be proven at the trial in this
15 matter. Plaintiff also seeks attorneys' fees.

16
17 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

18 **Violation of Civil Rights – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

19 **Conditions of Confinement – 8th Amendment**

20 **(Against All Defendants and Does 1 through 15)**

21 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
22 the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

23 30. Luis Romero faced substantial risk of serious harm when he was forced
24 by All Defendants defendants to share a cell overnight with the no longer single-celled
25 Osuna, and when they failed to ensure that routine cell-checks were conducted, and
26 failed to enforce rules against bedsheets in the cells to prevent visibility from the
27 outside.

28 31. All Defendants and Doe defendants were deliberately indifferent to a

1 substantial risk of serious harm to which Luis Romero was exposed while in the same
2 cell as Osuna, in that they knew of it and disregarded it by failing to take reasonable
3 measures to address it.

4 31. As a direct and proximate result of All Defendants' conduct, in acting to
5 put Romero in the same cell as Osuna and failing to act to protect him once in that cell,
6 Defendants and Doe defendants caused harm to Romero and plaintiff was damaged as
7 alleged herein above.

8 32. The aforementioned misconduct of the named defendants was of such an
9 egregious nature that it entitles the plaintiffs to an award of exemplary and punitive
10 damages according to proof and as permitted by law.

11 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12 **Violation of Civil Rights – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

13 **Failure to Protect Inmate – Eighth Amendment**

14 **(Against All Defendants and Does 1 through 15)**

15 33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
16 the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

17 34. Defendants and Doe defendants, while acting under color of law,
18 deprived Luis Romero, Plaintiff's son, of his civil rights under the Eighth Amendments
19 to the United States Constitution.

20 35. Defendants and Doe defendants, while acting under color of law,
21 deprived Luis Romero, Plaintiff's son, of his civil rights under the Eight Amendment to
22 the United States Constitution when they made intentional decisions with respect to
23 the conditions under which Romero was confined, as described above. These decisions
24 put Romero in substantial risk of suffering serious harm.

25 36. At all times relevant here, Defendants and Doe defendants did not take
26 reasonable available measures to abate the substantial risk of harm to Romero. These
27 defendants knew of the high degree of risk that Romero faced while in the same cell as
28 Osuna, and disregarded it. Indeed, Burnes and Doe defendants were aware of the risk

1 that Osuna posed to any other inmate in close proximity to him, and chose to ignore
2 standard administrative procedure in placing Romero in a cell with him, and that very
3 first evening, failed to ensure that routine cell-checks were conducted, and failed to
4 enforce rules against bedsheets in the cells to prevent visibility from the outside. The
5 consequences of each of these decisions was obvious and constituted deliberate
6 indifference Romero's serious safety needs.

7 37. As a proximate result of the conduct of Defendants and Doe defendants
8 1 through 15, in particular, by not taking such measures as described above, Plaintiff
9 suffered injuries and damages set forth herein, including great physical pain and
10 emotional distress up to the time of his death, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of life, and
11 loss of earning capacity.

12 38. The conduct of Defendants and Doe defendants 1 through 15 was willful,
13 wanton, malicious, and done with reckless disregard for the rights and safety of
14 decedent and therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages as
15 to Defendants.

16 39. Defendants and Doe defendants 1 through 15 are liable to Plaintiff for
17 the decedent's injuries and death, either because they were integral participants in the
18 wrongful actions that led to Luis Romero being placed alone in a cell, unsupervised,
19 with a violent psychopath.

20 40. Plaintiff brings this claim both individually and as a successor-in-interest
21 to decedent. Plaintiff seeks survival damages, including for the nature and extent of
22 decedent's injuries, pre-death pain and suffering, emotional distress, and loss of life and
23 enjoyment of life, as well as wrongful death damages under this claim. Plaintiff also
24 seeks attorney's fees.

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1 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

2 **Supervisory Liability**

3 **(42 U.S.C. § 1983; 8th and 14th Amendments)**

4 **(Against Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15)**

5 41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
6 the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

7 42. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15 acted in a supervisory capacity under
8 color of law and was the supervisor for the administrative segregated unit to which
9 Osuna was assigned from January 2019 through March 9, 2019, and where Romero was
10 assigned from March 7, 2019, through March 9, 2019.

11 43. The acts and failures of Burnes and Does 11-15 were a cause of the
12 murder of Luis Romero, which deprived Luis Romero of his rights under the Eighth
13 Amendment, as alleged above.

14 44. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15 knew of the decision to place
15 Romero in Osuna's cell and approved it, thereby knowingly refusing to terminate acts
16 of subordinates (Does 1-10) that he knew or reasonably should have known would
17 cause the subordinates to deprive Romero of his Eighth amendment rights, and
18 furthermore, Defendant Burnes knew that his subordinates (Does) were engaging in
19 these acts to place Romero in Osuna's cell, and also Defendant Burnes knew that his
20 subordinates (Does) were engaging in acts to place Romero in Osuna's cell and knew
21 or reasonably should have known that the subordinate's conduct would deprive Romero
22 of these rights.

23 45. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15, as supervisors for other Does, the
24 correctional officers on shift the night that Romero was murdered, knew that his
25 subordinates did not follow protocol and knew that they did not conduct regular,
26 scheduled safety checks of the inmates' cells during the night, and did not enforce the
27 rules against sheets being hung up inside cells to obstruct viewing into said cells, and
28 therefore Burnes knew or reasonably should have known that the subordinates'

1 conduct would deprive Romero of his Eighth Amendment rights.

2 46. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15, as supervisors, disregarded the
3 known or obvious consequences that deficiencies in training correctional officers to
4 conduct regularly scheduled night-time cell checks and enforcing the rule against sheets
5 hung up inside a cell to obstruct views into it, and these deficiencies in night-time safety
6 checks would cause their subordinates to violate the Romero's constitutional rights.

7 47. The conduct of Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15, as described above,
8 were so closely related to the deprivation of Romero's constitutional rights as to be the
9 moving force behind permitting Romero to be placed in a cell with Osuna overnight,
10 and for Romero to be left unsupervised and unprotected for the entire night, which
11 culminated in Romero's murder.

12 48. Defendants Burnes and Does 11-15 engaged in conduct that showed a
13 reckless or callous indifference to the deprivation by their subordinates of the rights of
14 others.

15 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

16 **Loss of Familial Relations**

17 **(42 U.S.C. § 1983; 14th Amendment)**

18 **(Against All Defendants)**

19 49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
20 the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

21 50. The individual defendants (Burnes and Does 1 through 15) each violated
22 Plaintiff's constitutional rights by committing the misconduct set forth hereinabove in
23 Claims for Relief One through Three. The defendants' above-alleged misconduct
24 constituted deliberate indifference of Luis Romero's serious safety needs.

25 51. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned actions and
26 omissions, Plaintiff was deprived of her son and suffered the injuries and damages as
27 alleged herein above. The liberty interests Plaintiff as a mother is well-recognized as
28 Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process rights.

52. The conduct of the individual defendant Burnes and Doe defendants 1 through 15 was willful, wanton, malicious, and done with reckless disregard for the rights and safety of decedent and therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Wrongful Death

(California Code of Civil Procedure 377.60 et seq.)

(Against All Defendants and Does 1-15)

62. Plaintiffs Dora Solares and Victor Manuel Romero Gonzalez incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

63. The named defendants have committed intentional or negligent misconduct that caused the untimely and wrongful death of decedent Luis Romero and deprived Plaintiffs of their son.

64. As a direct and proximate result of this misconduct, Plaintiffs suffered the injuries and damages as alleged hereinabove

65. These injuries and damages are compensable under California law.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Summon Medical Care

Cal. Gov't. Code § 845.6

(Against Defendants Silva, Pena, Gallemore, Garcia and Does 1-15)

66. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if re-alleged herein.

67. While in the cell he was forced to share with Jaime Osuna, Luis Romero was violently attacked. Defendants Silva, Pena, Gallemore, Garcia and Does failed to conduct timely safety checks, failed to order the draped bedsheets obstructing any view into the cell to come down, and failed to be within earshot or eyeshot of Romero and Osuna's cell. In the moments that Mr. Romero was attacked by Osuna, but before Mr.

1 Romero died, Defendant Does failed to provide necessary medical care that would
2 have prevented Mr. Romero's death.

3 68. Defendants Silva, Pena, Gallemore, Garcia and Doe defendants, herein
4 agents, servants, and employees of the CDCR, and within the course and scope of that
5 agency, service, and/or employment, and under color of authority, failed to take
6 reasonable action to summons medical care for Mr. Romero, despite having reason to
7 know that he was in need of immediate medical care, in violation of Cal. Gov't Code §
8 845.6.

9 69. As a result, Mr. Romero's injuries worsened, and without timely medical
10 treatment, he died.

11 70. As a result, Plaintiff sustained the injuries and damages alleged herein.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as follows against defendants:

- 14 1. General and Special damages, including both survival and wrongful death
15 damages, in an amount according to proof;
- 16 2. Exemplary and punitive damages against each individual and Doe
17 defendant, in amounts according to proof;
- 18 4. Cost of suit, including attorneys' fees, under 42 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- 19 5. Such other relief as may be warranted or as is just and proper.
20

21 **LAW OFFICES OF JUSTIN STERLING**

22 DATED: July 11, 2024
23

24 By: /s/ Justin Sterling
25 Justin Sterling
26 Attorney for Plaintiffs,
27 DORA SOLARES
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LAW OFFICES OF ERIN DARLING

DATED: July 11, 2024

By: /s/ Erin Darling
Erin Darling
Attorney for Plaintiff,
DORA SOLARES

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Dora Solares hereby demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

LAW OFFICES OF JUSTIN STERLING

DATED: July 11, 2024

By: /s/ Justin Sterling
Justin Sterling
Attorney for Plaintiff,
DORA SOLARES

LAW OFFICES OF ERIN DARLING

DATED: July 11, 2024

By: /s/ Erin Darling
Erin Darling
Attorney for Plaintiff,
DORA SOLARES